

**Abstract ID :** 721

**Title :** STRANDINGS AND REHABILITATIONS OF ROUGH-TOOTHED DOLPHINS FROM TAIWAN WATERS, 1995 TO 2002

**Category :** Strandings

**Student :** Not Applicable

**Preferred Format :** Poster Presentation

**Abstract :** Rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*) are found in many tropical areas but have not certainly sighted in the coastal waters around Taiwan. However, quite a few stranding cases were recorded. From 1995 to 2002, 19 strandings (38 individuals) of *S. bredanensis* were recorded along Taiwan coast with 68% (13/19) occurring in northern Taiwan. Furthermore, most of them (16/19) were live-strandings and three events were mass strandings released at site. Since 1998, 6 individuals of *S. bredanensis* (3 adults, 2 juveniles, and a pregnant individual) have been rehabilitated by Taiwan Cetacean Stranding Network (TCSN), which conducted rescue and rehabilitation of live-stranded cetaceans since 1997. Generally, rehabilitated individuals survived less than 2 weeks. The most commonly clinical findings were hypoalbuminemia, significant ALKP decrease, and striated muscle damage. Other common findings were pneumonia, liver disease, and renal failure. The pregnant *S. bredanensis* which was found stranded in Taipei in late January, 2000, had an abortion at Day 3 and died at Day 8 with septicemia. The fetus was about 25 cm in length. The only successfully rehabilitated individual was a juvenile male which found stranded with severe respiratory infection, lung edema, and heavy nematode loaded in stomach in Taipei in early February, 2001. After 47 days of rehabilitation, the animal regained weight and showed "normal" behavior, such as gutting and beheading fishes. Then it was released off northeastern Taiwan with freeze-brand "IL1". After one week, however, it was found stranded in Pang-hu, island in the middle of Taiwan Strait. The dolphin was thinner but still in good condition. We supposed that it has swum at least 700 km and stranded with uncertain causes. It gained much more weight and became robust in body shape after 44 days rehabilitation. Then it was released with off northern Pang-hu in early May and was never sighted again.